

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2A, 2B and 2C. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 2A, 2B and 2C, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2A, 2B and 2C.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this amendment, the drawings and Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

I.. The Drawings Satisfy Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the drawings for informalities. Accordingly, the drawings are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected for being indefinite. Accordingly, Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are amended to clarify the features of the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,864,172 to Noma et al.; Claims 3-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noma et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,501,893 to Lamer; and Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noma et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit the English translation of priority document JP 2002-254858. Accordingly, Noma et al. does not constitute prior art. The effective prior art date for Noma et al. is June 17, 2003. However, priority document JP 2002-254858 was filed August 30, 2002. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103 is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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